

Q&A Consistency Meeting Agenda for Plumbing, April 2017

1. Question: If an electric water heater is installed in a garage and impact protection is required, who is responsible for providing the protection, the electrician or the plumber?

Answer: There is a specific requirement in the NCPC, Section 502.5, that requires protection from moving vehicles. This would be a requirement of the plumber.

502.5 Water heaters installed in garages. Water heaters having an ignition source shall be elevated such that the source of ignition is not less than 18 inches (457 mm) above the garage floor. Appliances shall be located or protected so that they are not subject to physical damage by a moving vehicle.

Exception: Elevation of the ignition source is not required for appliances that are listed as flammable vapor ignition resistant.

2. Question: Can a warning marker tape with a tracer wire be used in lieu of the 14 AWG tracer wire in the gas code?

Answer: Section 306.2.4 NCPC requires a tracer wire or other approved conductor.

To be an approved alternate, it must meet or exceed what the code requirements. The code requires 14 gauge wire approved for direct burial, these ribbons only have an aluminum foil inside them. The end of the wire has to be left accessible for conductive locating, the ribbons do not provide this option as the foil interior is not accessible. Most ribbons have locating depth limits, with 6 inch on being able to be located down to 24 inches.

If the warning marker tape is manufactured for that purpose, is equivalent to the gauge wire required by code and provides conductive locating; we could approve it as an alternate.

3. Question: When is a neutralizer required for condensing appliances such as water heaters and furnaces?

Answer: CMUD's policy requires waste to be between 6 and 12 pH when entering the system. If the manufacture's data states a pH lower than 6, then a neutralizing filter is required for condensate waste discharging to the drainage system or outside the structure.

Almost all of the condensing water heaters and condensing gas furnaces researched stated that the condensate would be slightly acidic with a pH from 3 to 5. Many manufacturers recommend neutralizers, but unless it specifically requires one or states a pH level less than 6; we do not require a neutralizer.

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4. Question: What are the requirements for the new tracer wire requirement on sewer lines?

Answer: The new section 306.2.4 NCPC only applies to plastic sewer piping. A tracer wire (14 AWG and listed for direct burial), shall be installed adjacent to and over the full length of the piping. The wire shall be accessible at the cleanout between the building drain and sewer. This applies to all permits issued on or after March 1, 2017.

5. Question: I installed several shampoo bowls in a salon, but the inspector said he could not approve the installation because the manufacturer could not provide documentation that they conformed to a standard. The standard, was for a sink; does the standard apply to a shampoo bowl?

Answer: Yes, A shampoo bowl is a sink and Section 418 applies to all sinks except Lavatories.

Sinks shall conform to ANSI Z124.6, ASME A112.19.1M, ASME A112.19.2M, ASME A112.19.3M, ASME A112.19.4M, ASME A112.19.9M, CSA B45.1, CSA B45.2, CSA B45.3 or CSA B45.4.

Sinks shall be provided with waste outlets a minimum of 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) in diameter. A strainer or crossbar shall be provided to restrict the clear opening of the waste outlet.

Moveable sink systems shall comply with ASME A112.19.12.